

Weare Conservation Commission

Minutes

June 8, 2005

In attendance were: Tom Carr, Steve Najjar, Andy Fulton, and John Ciampi.

Guests include: Charley Hanson and Dennis Thompson of Resource Management, Inc., and Wayne Harple, of Troop 24, along with George Malette of the Planning Board.

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

1). Resource Management, Inc. – Charley Hansen gave an informational power point presentation , submitting an overview of the services provided, and describing the process involved in the manufactured topsoil product, of RMI. The following is a compendium of that presentation:

- Much of their work involves gravel pit reclamation.
- RMI had previously met with Chris Bolton to make plans for his pit reclamation.
- All the agents used in their topsoil manufacturing process are organic, and must meet State and Federal standards to be considered for reuse.
- Their headquarters is located in Ashland, NH.
- They recycle annually over 275,000 cubic yards of residual material.
- They develop solutions for implementing organic waste products.
- Their three primary residuals they recycle are short paper fibers, biosolids, and wood ash.
- They employ about 25 employees.
- Much of the wood ash comes from wood fired power plants.
- Manufactured topsoil is reputed to be superior to conventional loam in many ways, for instance, it is more erosion resistant.
- Beside gravel pit reclamation, this product can also be used for landfill closures, fertilizing farm land, and general loam applications.
- The short paper fiber is a by product of the paper manufacturing process.
- The paper fiber gives the topsoil its cohesive strength.
- A typical composition of this topsoil consists of 5 parts fiber, 1 part biosolids, and 6 parts sand.
- The biosolids provide the nitrogen which is the energy driver of this system.
- It takes about 500 years for nature to create an inch of topsoil; however, RMI can accomplish this task almost immediately.
- Ground water, in the vicinity of this topsoil application, is monitored by DES to insure that generated organic compounds do not pose contamination complications.
- Broad leaf grass species do not grow well in this matrix.
- Biosolids undergo a digestion process before it is applied in the field, which effectively nullifies any harmful or invasive plant species that may be a nuisance later on.
- This topsoil is manufactured at the site of application.
- RMI plans to work with Chris Bolton to set up operation at his gravel pit at Mt. William.
- The benefit of using manufactured topsoil is that it would greatly reduce the need of stripping other land of its topsoil, for instance, farmlands.
- RMI waits 38 months before their product can be available for general distribution.
- Biosolids are apportioned either by land filling, burning, or recycling.
- Septage currently is not being used in RMI applications.

- RMI has developed a recycled organic consumer product called *Heart and Soul Ph+* created by using a blend of wood ash and nutrients, and is currently available in retail from Illinois to Maine.

2). Wayne Harple – of boy scout troop 24, which comprises 23 scouts of the Daniel Webster council, is here this evening to find out if there are any projects, as may be suggested by the Commission, that the scouts could become involved in so that they may earn their merit badge. One salient project being considered is to have the scouts construct signage to be used for town property identification and elucidate any of its features. Steve suggested that the scouts could replace some of the older signage using pressure treated lumber, and also to provide Wayne with a list of all the conservation lands and their locations, along with funding for this project. This undertaking would dovetail with the troop's aspiration of completing one community oriented project a year. Mr. Harple stipulated that the troops raise their own funds rather than be handed a blank check. Tom cited that the Commission would need about a dozen signs made. Wayne informed the Commission that the signs would be fabricated during the winter months, since the summers are left open. Steve acknowledged that he is willing to function as the liaison between the Commission and the Scouts, and also he feels it would be more desirable if they themselves designed the signs. Steve also stated that there are other projects that can be preformed by the scouts such as trail building and trash collecting. Tom stated that this signage endeavor is an ideal enterprise for the Commission because he has been hoping to accomplish the task of identifying the conservation lands on site, besides mapping them, for some three years. Tom continued that some signs are in need of repair, and at other locations the signage is nonexistent. Mr. Harple stated that working with the WCC dovetails with his preference to keep projects within the local community. At this point of the meeting, discussion centered on choice of materials and design which would extend the life of the signs. Steve suggested that the signage all be of the same shape, size, and configuration for ease of identifying town conservation land.

3). Minutes of May 11, 2005 – John read last months minutes, and the following changes were recommended:

- 2nd paragraph, 3rd line down, change "*local activist*" to "*regional activist*".
- 1st page, 2nd line up from bottom, after the name "*Jeff*", include the words "*T.F. Merian Inc. representative*"
- 2nd page, 7th line down, change the name "*Brian Merrill*" to "*Brett Merrill*"
- 3rd page, under topic #2, 1st line, change "*local activist*" to "*regional activist*".
- Under topic #2, 1st bullet, change to read "*This proposed landfill would act as an alternative to Wheelabrator operation*".

John made motion to accept the minutes as amended, and Andy 2nd. There were three votes to approve, and one abstaining (Steve). The minutes were duly approved, and the motion carries.

4). Wetland Bureau Applications:

- DES file # 2005-00315, Hi Point Property Owners Association, expedited permit, located on map 103, lot 22.1 on Lake Horace, has been approved to apply 50' linear of rip-rap and up to 20 cubic yards of sand for beach replenishment and stabilization.
- DES file # 2005-00894, located on map 203, lot 105, which is Frank Bolton's property, has completed a forestry notification.
- DES file # 2005-00872, property of Andrew Demetriou on Colby Rd., has received notice of recording letter of deficiency with H.C.R.D. for constructing a garage and driveway in a wetland. The Commission should receive a restoration plan, but to date nothing was received.

5). Planning Board Issues:

- Rosssdale Contracting, for a subdivision on Rosedale Lane, map 411, lot 14, was previously conceptually presented to the Commission last winter, and is a 5 lot subdivision, in which one lot has been reconfigured into five lots. Peter Schauer is the recorded wetland scientist. Comments to Planning: The final plan will need a wetland certification stamp; lot 14 needs a test pit in the 4000 sq. ft. septic area; sheet #6 of the plan states a 50' setback from surface waters which is inconstant with zoning ordinance 18.2.5 which stipulates 75'.
- 153 Concord Stage Rd. – Tom stepped down from participation in this plan due to conflict of interest. Comments to Planning include: this plan needs wetland certification; the wetland impact could be avoided by shifting access of parcel 59.4 to the northern boundary of the subdivision; no test pit in the 4K septic area is indicated for lots 59.4 and 59.1; its not clear if this plan meets the 75' setback on lots 59 & 59.1; communicate to Planning that the Commission has the permit, but awaits a quorum at next months meeting.

6). PSNH Awards Grant - A \$250.00 grant was presented to the Commission this evening in which John received an Environmental Advocacy Reward as a result of a program offered by PSNH for his volunteer efforts to the community. Tom explained to the Commission that past PSNH grant monies have disappeared into the General Fund because there was no separate account in which to deposit these grants. As a result of this misappropriation of funds, Tom proposes to go before the BOS to inquire about receiving authority to set up a separate unrestricted account to be used specifically for smaller revenues such as PSNH grants, in which the account would be audited biannually. George Malette suggested contacting Terry Knowles, a local resident who is familiar with trust funds, for advice before meeting with the BOS.

7). Camera Access – Andy broached the subject of Commission members having access to the Commission's digital camera, which currently is housed in Niomi's office. Andy displayed some displeasure with this setup because access to the camera's use is restricted to a certain time of day. As a consequence to this dilemma, Andy made motion to have the camera in the possession of the vice-chair of the Commission, to which Steve 2nd. All voted in favor of this motion, and the motion carries.

8). Keys for OSC Members – Tom wants to address this matter with the BOS so that the chair of the OSC is issued a key.

9). Open Space Discussion – Steve brought up the concept of the Commission buying a parcel of property, placing the property into conservation, and then selling it. This notion was met with concurrence among the members.

10). Adjournment – Steve made motion to adjourn, and Andy 2nd. All voted to accept and the motion carries. Tom adjourned the meeting at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Ciampi

cc: Commission files
BOS
Town Clerk, Tina Pelletier